STAMP-COLLECTING.

BENEFITS DERIVED FROM THE MANIA IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

The Royal Road to Learning-Getting Good General Knowledge of the Earth and the Different Nations Thereof-Examples.

[New York World.] Teachers in the public schools of this city have discovered that there is one royal road to learn much of what is taught between the fifth an lifest grade, and that is through a st mp-album. The result is that they are encouraging the children in every possible way to form collections, that they set the examples themselves, and that at the noon recess they often preside over a stamp ex-change. Said one teacher recently at a teachers' meeting: "I have been only three months collecting, and in that time I have learned more geography and more current history than in any previous year. I have two boys in my class (fifth grade) who have been collecting for a year—one 10 and the other 11—and no boy in the first grade can match either of them. They know the name and date of accession of every ruler in the world; date of accession of every ruler in the world; the population, coinage (in our money), shield, flag of every stamp-issuing country or colony; the different issues of stamps, of course; and they have a better general knowledge of the earth, the relative sizes of countries, the intelligence of the people, than nine grown persons out of ten. They have learned it without study, as an amusement, without knowing that they were acquiring information more valuable than the rules of marbles." She did not exaggerate in the least.

A principal at the same meeting said "My brightest children are stemp-collectors "My brightest children are stamp-collectors. All my 'show' scholars are. I can go into any school and pick out in ten minute-every stamp-collector. To do it I will give out twenty questions of general information and every one who answers ten or more will be a stamp-collector." When asked what questions she would ask, she gave the following as offhand illustration: What India following as offhand illustration: What European countries own the West India islands? Name the groups belonging to each. What is the population of Montserrat? How are the Virgin islands governed? Where and what is Heligoland? Name the countries of Europe according to size, then according to population. The same for South America and Central Processing South America South Americ tral America. Name England's colonies in South Africa, Australasia, in Asia, according to size and then according to population. How many British colonies use our American coinage! How many foreign countries? Name the present ruler of each open to the country in Europe and the title of each open Name some of the kingdoms of India still ruled by native princes. What do you know about Borneo! Where is Stellaland? Name the rulers of Spain since 1860. Of France. Of Italy. "Any child," she said, "who has been collecting for a year could answer any one of them. The nawest collector could answer six or eight, and perhaps ten. How many children who do not tral America. Name England's colonies haps ten. How many children who do not

collect could answer five of them f" Another teacher told how an inspactor came to her class-room at the noon recess, intending to stop this "foolishness about stamps." They were in the middle of the stamps." They were in the middle of the stamp exchange and a boy had just handed her a stamp to "place and value" in others. "Keep your seat," said the inspector, grimly; "I want to see what you are doing." She held up the stamp to the boys around.
"Sarawak." they chorused. "Whose head?"
"Rajay Brooke." "What date?" "1874."
"What is it worth?" "Eight cents unused." "In exchange?" "Twenty centa," "It was a good opportunity," said the teacher, "and I knew what the inspector had come for, so I thought I would teach him a lesson, and continued on Sarawak. Where is Sarawak?" "In Borneo." "Who rules Borneo!"
"Sultan Abdul Mumein." "What is the
capital city?" "Bruni." "What is the population!" "Twenty thousand." "Of the
island?" "Nearly 2,000,000." "Who is
Rajah Brooke!" "Sir Charles Johnstons Brooke, successor of James Brooke," "What is Sarawak!" "A province of Borneo." When the Sarawakian-stamp boy had

when the Sarawakian-stamp boy had pocketed his three stamps and 2 cents cash balance due, the teacher turned to the inspector, who had stood silent, grim, and grisly, and asked him, with butter in her mouth: "Do your children collect, Mr. Blank?" "They do not," said he rather gruffly—his lesson had been severs—"but if this is 'collecting postage stamps' they shall this is 'collecting postage stamps' they shall begin to morrow. This is the fourth grade; they are both in the first; neither one of them could answer one question you have asked." Since that time Inspector Blank has been an earnest supporter of philately, and has given to school children over a dozen albums. He now has a standing offer of an international (the best) album to any scholar in his schools who collects 400 differ

ent stamps.

The same teacher said, in reply to questions, that she found it best never to interfere with trading except to determine the value of the stamp , and to see, generally, that value was given for value according to catalogue prices. When a new stamp came in the trade was postponed to the next exchange day for the boys to read up. "I leave all to the boys, and never tay anything except when they are at a loss. I keep Dealers in Lumber and all kinds of Building Materials, Paints, Oils, Nails, etc.,

One who has never started a collection cannot understand or appreciate the feeling which soon takes possession of the collector. He collects for the pleasure it gives him, and the pleasure constantly grows on account of the information acquired. When he receives a new stam;, say from Suri-name, Stellaland, or Nowanuggur, he can not remain satisfied until he knows all about the country and how and when the stamp was issued. The result is that for general information concerning any country or colony issuing stamps, the American small-boy collector is far better authority than the gazatteer or encyclopælia. What diamonds are to a woman rare stamps are to the collector, while the common stamps are to him what ordinary jewels are to her.

Convention of Icelanders. [Chicago Times.] It will be news to most people, probably, that there are between 5,000 and 6,000 foe-landers living in this country. But that is the fact, and quite recently dologates from aleven Icelandic congregations in Dakota, Montana and Manitoba met in convention Montana and Maritoba met in convention at Mountain, in the first named territory, to form a synotical union. There is a hitch, however. In Iceland the women have voice however. In Iceland the women have voice and vote in congregational matters, and the synodical constitution ad spted at Mountain by a vote of 18 to 8 contained a provision to that effect, but some of the congregations are so stoutly opposed to this equality of the sexes that at least one more convention will be necessary to settle the matter.

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